Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A cup-like broth container having a generally octagonal cross section, an open top surface, and a closed bottom surface, the container comprising four mutually opposed pairs of connected sidewalls with a protruding rib formed on each of four perpendicularly opposed single sidewalls, said broth container further comprising four Y-shaped clamping ridges, each ridge having one leg portion and two extending arm portions, wherein each leg of the Y-shaped clamping ridge is attached to and extends outwardly from a single one of the four sidewalls located between the four sidewalls having a protruding rib.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (original) The broth container of claim 1 wherein the protruding ribs formed on each of four sidewalls fully extend from the top surface to the bottom surface of the broth container.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The broth container of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein the Y-shaped clamping ridges extend about 50% to 80% of the length of sidewalls from the top surface towards the bottom

Claim 5. (original) The broth container of claim 1 wherein the protruding ribs protrude about 1/8th inch outwards from the sidewalls.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The broth container of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein the Y-shaped clamping ridges protrude about 1/8th inch outwards from the sidewalls.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The broth container of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein the arm-portions and leg-portions of the clamping ridges provide a vertically oriented recessed surface adapted to mate with a clamping members of a robotic handling apparatus.

Claim 8. (original) The broth container of claim 1 further comprising a freely disposed, ferromagnetic or semi-ferromagnetic mixing member that may be caused to revolve within the broth container by a vortex mixer.

Claim 9. (original) The broth container of claim 1 further comprising a foil membrane adhered over the top surface.

Claim 10. (original) The broth container of claim 1 wherein the top surface is generally rectangular in shape except for two pairs of indent notches formed at opposing corners of the top surface, the indent notches being sized and shaped to mate with correspondingly sized and shaped furrows formed in a broth canister so that a number of broth containers may be confined in a broth canister in a common and stable orientation.

Claim 11. (original) The broth container of claim 10 wherein the ribs are vertically aligned over one another by indent notches so that a number of broth containers may be stacked atop one another in a broth canister without collapsing the foil membrane that is adhered over the top surface.

Claim 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (previously canceled)

Claim 14. (previously canceled)

Claim 15. (previously canceled)

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (canceled)

Claim 18. (canceled)